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JACOBS FIELD ERA
CHAMPS

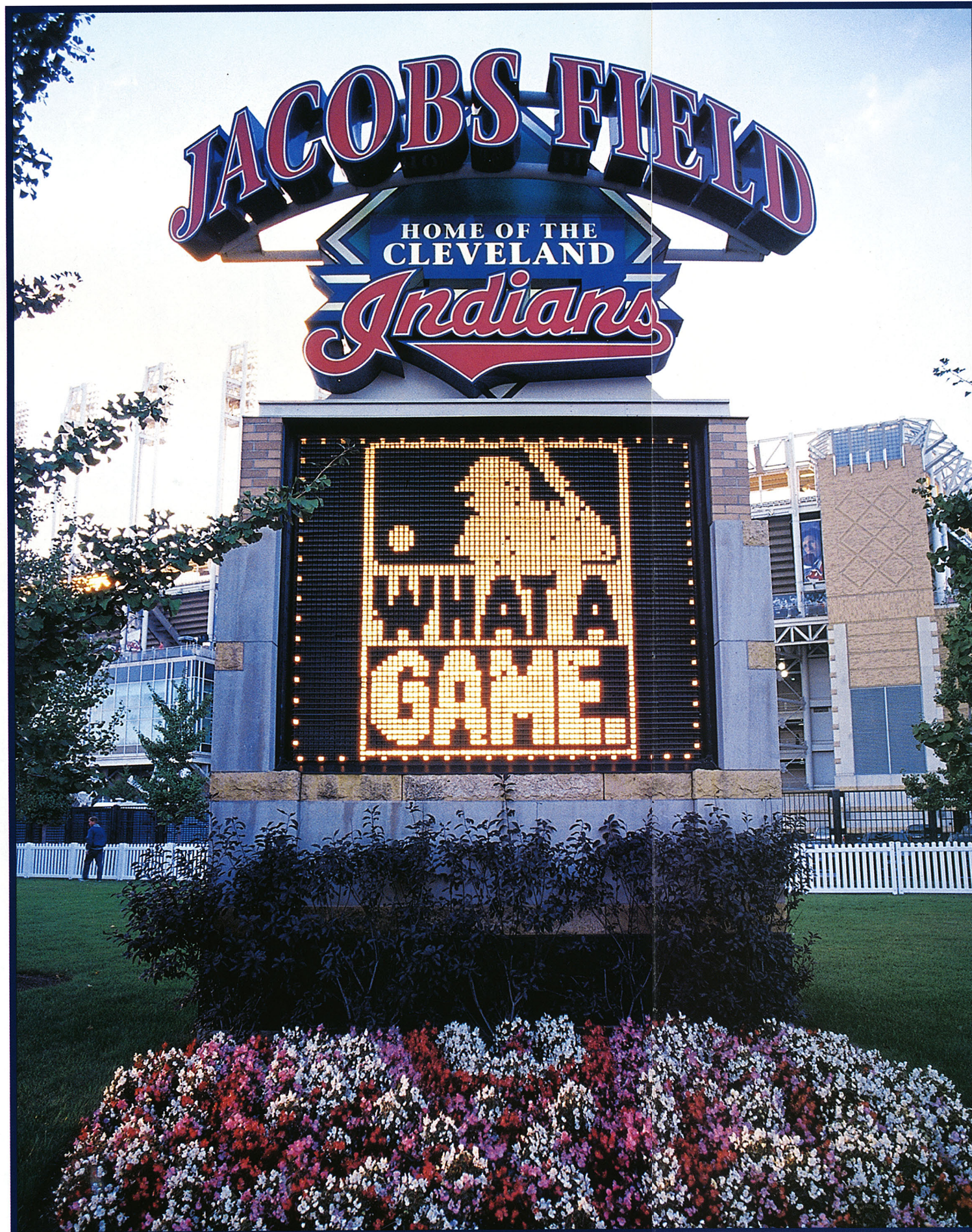


Photo: Gregory Drezdson



Inside This Issue

10 More Talent on the Way by BASEBALL AMERICA

Who are the Tribe's best prospects for future seasons? Russell Branyan, C.C. Sabathia, and Alex Ramirez — just to name a few. Here's BASEBALL AMERICA's pick of the top ten young talents in the Cleveland organization.

36 Brothers by Jim Ingraham

They've been surrounded by the world of professional baseball since they were children. They've dreamed of playing together at the Major League level. They've experienced great success and great challenges in their Major League careers; and finally, they're living a dream come true.

46 A Century of Indians Baseball: 1899-1919 by Jack De Vries

Check out this first installment in a series of articles appropriate for the end of the millenium! These historical pieces will engage you with their cast of fascinating — and real — characters. The story of baseball in Cleveland is filled with great athletes and unending twists and turns. Whether you're a casual or an avid fan, this is a tale for you.

64 Six Ways To Spell Relief by Steve Herrick

Cleveland's bullpen is undoubtedly among the best in the Majors. Together its relievers feature such variety in pitches and speeds that opposing batters are apt to meet their match. Herrick reviews the styles of each reliever and talks with Tribe pitching coach Phil Regan and manager Mike Hargrove.

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The most sought after seats in Cleveland.

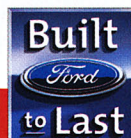
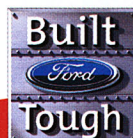


FORD F-SERIES

Well, maybe the second most.



photo by Gregory Drezdson



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Photo: Gregory Drezdson

to see their anticipated Major League rendezvous rudely and unexpectedly aborted before its fruition, the Alomars are together again. A little bit older. A whole lot wiser. But together again — in Cleveland.

"We'd almost given up hope of ever playing together in the Major Leagues."

— Roberto Alomar

"I think Sandy is looking forward to it more than anyone," says Indians manager Mike Hargrove. "Everyone needs someone to talk to that understands you better than your wife. And that's what a brother can be."

The Alomars are just the fifth set of brothers to play for the Indians in the same season in this century,

the first in 24 years. The last brothers to play for the Tribe prior to this year were **Gaylord** and **Jim Perry**, who were teammates on the Indians in 1974 and 1975. **Joe** and **Luke Sewell** played together on the Indians from 1921 to 1930. **Vean** and **Dave Gregg** were teammates on the Tribe in 1913. And **Bill** and **Harry Hinchman** played together in Cleveland in 1907. In short, this doesn't happen very often. And the Alomars know it.

"We'd almost given up hope of ever playing together in the Major Leagues," says Robbie. "We've always wanted to play together, but it always seemed either Sandy was on a team that didn't need a second baseman or I was on a team that didn't need a catcher."

All that changed after the 1998 season. After using 15 different second baseman since trading Carlos Baerga to the Mets halfway through the 1996 season, the

Indians decided to stop the revolving door from spinning. The Tribe signed Robbie to a four-year contract.

Robbie became a free agent after playing in Baltimore for the previous three seasons. "I tried to stay there, but they said they wanted to go in a different direction," he said. Hmmmm. That meant a seven-time Gold Glove second baseman was entering the free-agent market. And the Indians just happened to need a second baseman. Talk about a perfect match.

"I never really considered going anywhere else," said Robbie of his decision to sign with the Tribe.

Both Alomars are Gold-Glove caliber fielders; Roberto at second (pictured left) and Sandy (pictured above) behind the plate.

Indians general manager **John Hart** called it, "Our most important free-agent signing, because in Robby you're talking about a potential future Hall of Famer." Certainly there was no sales job necessary in Cleveland.

Some of Robbie's biggest fans were the Indians players. "Robbie brings a lot to the table. He personifies what a second baseman should be, and we haven't had a true second baseman for the last few years," said **Jim Thome**.

"He's a solid all-star player," said **Dave Burba**. "Robbie will make plays that most second basemen

"Every time Robbie has gone to a new team, he's had an impact year."

— Sandy Alomar



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



can't make. It's going to be a lot of fun pitching in front of him and **Omar (Vizquel)**."

Nobody knows Robbie better than his own brother, and Sandy cuts right to the bottom line when he talks about the significance of the Indians signing his younger brother. "Every time Robbie has gone to a new team, he's had an impact year," says Sandy. "And every time we've played together, we've both played well."

The ones who will take the Alomar family reunion the hardest will be the long distance telephone carriers in the U.S. "Now that we're on the same team," says Robbie, "we won't have to worry about helping each other out of slumps by talking on the phone long distance, over two or three time zones. We really feel fortunate and blessed to be playing on the same team. It's something we've looked forward to doing for years. We've never had the chance to do it. Only during winter ball in Puerto Rico."

The Alomar baseball legacy starts on the island of Puerto Rico, where both Sandy and Robbie were born. Their father Sandy played in the Major Leagues for 14 years, starting in 1964, with the Braves, Mets, White Sox, Angels, Yankees, and Rangers. One of Sandy

Although neither brother had a memorable year at-bat in 1998, both have the potential to inflict great damage upon opponents from the plate.



Alomar's teammates on the Rangers in 1977 and 1978 was **Mike Hargrove**. By then, the two Alomar brothers had already begun to make a name for themselves in baseball games in Puerto Rico.

"I only got half the baseball genes Robbie got," says Sandy, with a laugh. "He was an awesome baseball player from a very early age." At age seven, Robbie was already playing in a league of 12-year-olds. "They wouldn't let him play in the league with kids his own age because the pitchers couldn't get him out," says Sandy.

For Robbie, baseball was a passion. "All I ever wanted to do was be a baseball player," he says. "There was never any doubt in my mind that I would be a Major Leaguer one day."

While Sandy, above, became an integral part of a successful Cleveland franchise, Roberto, at right, won two World Championships — and made a mark in both Toronto and Baltimore.

The fact that the Alomar brothers' father was a Major Leaguer didn't hurt. But Robbie is quick to point out that the two brothers did not get a free ride to the big leagues. "We're here because of God-given talent," Robbie says. "I know a lot of kids of Major League ballplayers who didn't make it to the big leagues. Yes, we had a father who was a talented player in the big leagues. But we didn't make it to the Major Leagues because our father was a big leaguer. We made it because of hard work."

Sandy says there were some obvious advantages to having a

"I never thought San Diego would ever trade Robbie."

— Sandy Alomar

father as a big leaguer. "Because our father was a Major Leaguer, Robbie and I both took a lot of pride in that, and we tried to be like him."

Sandy adds, "I think it helps being the son of a Major Leaguer in that you get to watch so much advanced baseball as a young kid. You learn a lot about the game when you're young. It's like going to baseball college, and you're only seven or eight years old."

Sandy was signed by the Padres in 1983 and Robbie signed with San Diego two years later. The two players then began climbing the Minor League ladder together. They played on the same Minor League teams in 1985, and again in 1987.

"You could tell Robbie was going to be great from

that first year," said Sandy. "He won a batting title in 'A' ball when he was only 18." Back then, Robbie wasn't the only switch-hitter in the family. "I started out as a switch-hitter," says Sandy. "But for some reason I had trouble getting out of the way of inside pitches hitting left-handed. That meant my right arm was exposed to the pitcher. The farm director at San Diego said, 'The only reason we signed you was because of your arm. You better not get hit.' So then I stopped switch-hitting, and went to hitting right-handed only."

The Alomars progressed through the San Diego farm system, and made an impression along the way. Robbie hit as high as .346, and Sandy was a two-time *Minor League Player of the Year*. They seemed destined to play in the Major Leagues together. But following the 1989 season, the Padres traded Sandy, Baerga, and outfielder Chris James to the Indians for Joe Carter. Then a year later, the Padres traded Robbie and Carter to Toronto for Fred McGriff and Tony Fernandez. So much for playing together with the Padres.

"I never thought San Diego would ever trade Robbie," Sandy says. "I



Photo: Courtesy of the Toronto Blue Jays

How To Score A Game

Baseball fans can enjoy the sport to the fullest extent by keeping track of the game and pinpointing those big plays that bring victory or defeat. All you need is a basic knowledge of the rules.

Although there are countless scoring methods, experts use a simple code based on numbering players by position and tracing action through the use of symbols. It's easy and fun.

In fact, why not devise your own scoring system with the basic suggestions on this page.

One such suggestion on player substitutions is to use a heavy or wavy line under or over a box to indicate a change, either of a player or batter.

If a batter flies to the rightfielder, merely use the figure 9. If it is a foul fly, use 9F.

Now that you are an official "scorer," you can really enjoy baseball games.

TEAM	Pos.	1	2
Rightfielder	9	4-6 W	
2nd Baseman	4	3 ④FO	
1st Baseman	3	==	
Centerfielder	8	SF 8	
Designated Hitter	DH	K	
Leftfielder	7		4-6
Catcher	2		DP 4-6-3
3rd Baseman	5		≡≡≡
Shortstop	6		7
Pitcher	1		
TOTALS	R H	1 1	1 2

Walked and was forced out at second (second baseman to shortstop)

Reached first on fielder's choice when runner was forced out, advanced to third on a double by 3rd place hitter; scored on 4th place hitter's sacrifice fly.

Doubled; did not advance further.

Flied out to center field scoring runner on third.

Struck out — end of the inning.

Singled; later forced out at second (second baseman to shortstop in first half of double play).

Hit into double play (second baseman to shortstop to first baseman).

Hit home run.

Flied out to leftfielder — end of inning.



Photo: Gregory Drezdzen

Can You Score The Play Above?

The ball was hit to the second baseman, who threw it to the shortstop. The shortstop was able to force out the runner who had been at first. He then threw the ball to the first baseman to get the batter out, turning a double play.

Can You Read This Scoring Example?

The hitter reached first base on a walk, stole second, advanced to third on a pitcher's balk, and scored on a wild pitch.



Use Symbols As Shorthand...

Single	—
Double	==
Triple	≡≡
Home Run	≡≡≡
Error	E
Foul Fly	F
Double Play	DP
Fielder's Choice	FC
Hit by Pitcher	HP
Wild Pitch	WP
Stolen Base	SB
Sacrifice Hit	SH
Sacrifice Fly	SF
Caught Stealing	CS
Passed Ball	PB
Balk	BK
Struck Out	K
Base on Balls	BB
Forced Out	FO
Intentional Walk	IW



Six Ways To Spell Relief

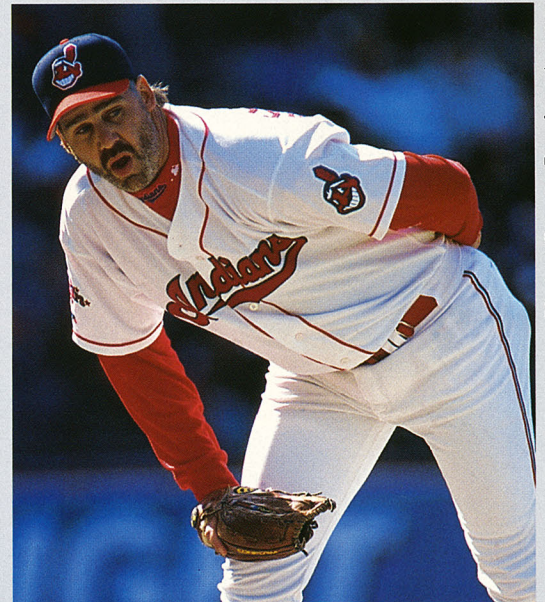
by **Steve Herrick**

Memo to Indians opponents: If you plan on beating the Tribe this season, you better do it early. Once a game gets to the sixth or seventh inning, chances are good it's going into the win column for the Indians.

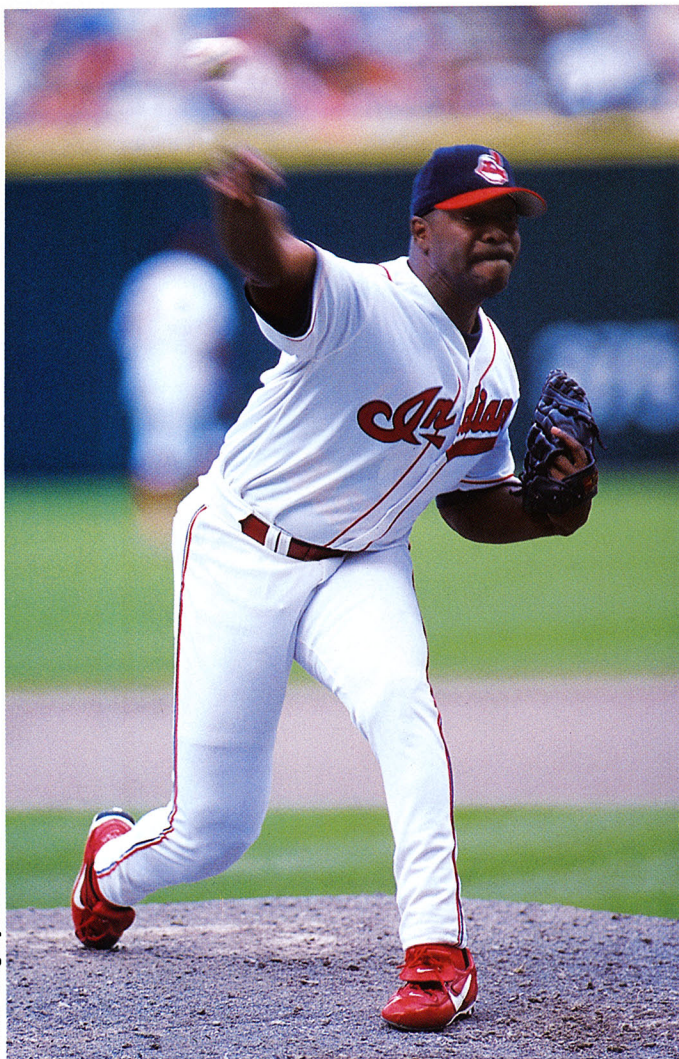
Why? There's a very good reason. Well, actually there are six very good reasons. Add them up and you get the Indians bullpen. It's a six-headed monster that's deep, effective, and could end up being the best bullpen in the American League.

And that's just the way general manager **John Hart** likes it.

"If you look at the success we've had over the last several years, it's because we've had a good bullpen that's been very deep," says Hart. "We have three guys who can close games for us."



Photos: Gregory Drezdson, top row



out there, but we didn't really have a closer until we got **(Jose) Mesa** going (in 1995)."

This season there is no doubt Jackson will be the closer, but he will have plenty of help if he needs it.

"Mike Jackson is our closer, but it's nice to have people like Rincon and Shuey who we can use if Mike needs a day off," says Hargrove.

Jackson was one of the Indians' most valuable players last season. Hargrove moved him into the closer's role two days before the season started and Jackson responded with the third-highest

The Indians look to Mike Jackson, above, to have another stellar year as the closer. Newcomer, Jerry Spradlin, at right, will be an imposing figure to opposing teams — a big man who throws hard.

save total in one season in team history.

"I never reflect too long on a season," he says. "Everybody looks forward to that type of season. I was blessed. I think the Lord blessed me to have that type of season, but once the next season starts nobody will remember what you did last season."

Jackson knows his way around the bullpen. Before last season, he had been one of the most reliable setup men in baseball for most of the 1990s.

"I know that role very well," he says. "The guys who come in in the seventh and eighth innings are so valuable to a ballclub. They're the ones coming in

with guys in scoring position. Those guys are the true savers. I don't care who you are. You can't do your job as the closer unless the guys in front of you do their jobs."

Jackson likes the looks of this season's bullpen.

"I'm very excited, especially the way some of our guys ended up last season," he says. "The guys we brought in will be a big help too."

As pitching coach for the Chicago Cubs the last two seasons, Regan got a good look at Spradlin and Rincon as they pitched in the National League.

"We have a lot of depth.... We have three or four guys who can close out games."

— Tribe Pitching Coach Phil Regan

"Both are great additions," he says. "Both are durable and they will be in a lot of ballgames."

Here is Regan's scouting report on the Tribe's new relievers.

"Spradlin is a big righthander who throws the ball extremely hard," he says. "He has a tremendous fastball which has tremendous movement. He has a good slider and a good breaking ball. All he needs is some confidence.

"Rincon doesn't have an overpowering fastball. He does have a great slider. He's tough on left-handed hitters and he's tough on right-handed hitters. He also has the mentality to close out some games."





Durability is another one of Spradlin's strengths. He made 145 appearances and pitched 163-1/3 innings the last two years.

Tribe fans will also get a chance to see the real Reed this season. Soon after being acquired from the Giants on July 23, he developed numbness on three fingers in his right hand. Doctors discovered a blood clot in his right wrist and performed an arteriogram to clear the blockage. Reed missed over two weeks, but returned for the playoffs.

"It started bothering me about 10 days after the trade," he

says. "I don't go in the trainer's room. I knew something was wrong, but I got traded for three core guys (Mesa, **Shawon Dunston** and **Al Morman**) and I wanted to come through. John Hart put a lot on the line for me. Once I got fixed, everything was OK for the playoffs."

Reed was checked out by doctors in the off-season.

"I came into Cleveland in late December just to make sure everything was 100 percent," he says. "They gave me another arteriogram and everything's OK. I don't think the hitters here have seen my good slider or my good sinker."

I got traded for three core guys and I wanted to come through.

—Tribe Reliever Steve Reed on his desire to excel in Cleveland

Reed is no stranger to good bullpens.

"In 1995, I was in the best bullpen in the National League [in Colorado]," says Reed. "We were good, but this is going to be a good bullpen, too. We have a couple of guys from each side who throw hard, and then you have guys like Paul Assenmacher and me who don't throw as hard, but we have strong arms and can pitch a lot. We have a lot more diversity."

Rincon and Assenmacher will give Hargrove a nice combination from the left side. Both can get left-handed hitters out, but Hargrove

*continued, see **Relievers**, page 87*

With the physical presence of an NBA power forward, Spradlin was one of the most-talked about players in the Tribe's Spring Training camp. When Spradlin threw batting practice, people stopped what they were doing and watched.

It doesn't look like American League hitters will have many comfortable at-bats against him. National League batters, who hit .216 against him last season, are undoubtedly glad he's gone. Not only is Spradlin tough to hit, not too many hitters want to dig in against someone that big who throws that hard.

"I've watched the hitters face him in batting practice," Regan says. "They don't like to stay in there against him. They'll hit his fastball, but they bail out when he throws his breaking stuff."

Tribe bullpen lefthanders are Paul Assenmacher, at right, and newly acquired Ricky Rincon, pictured above.

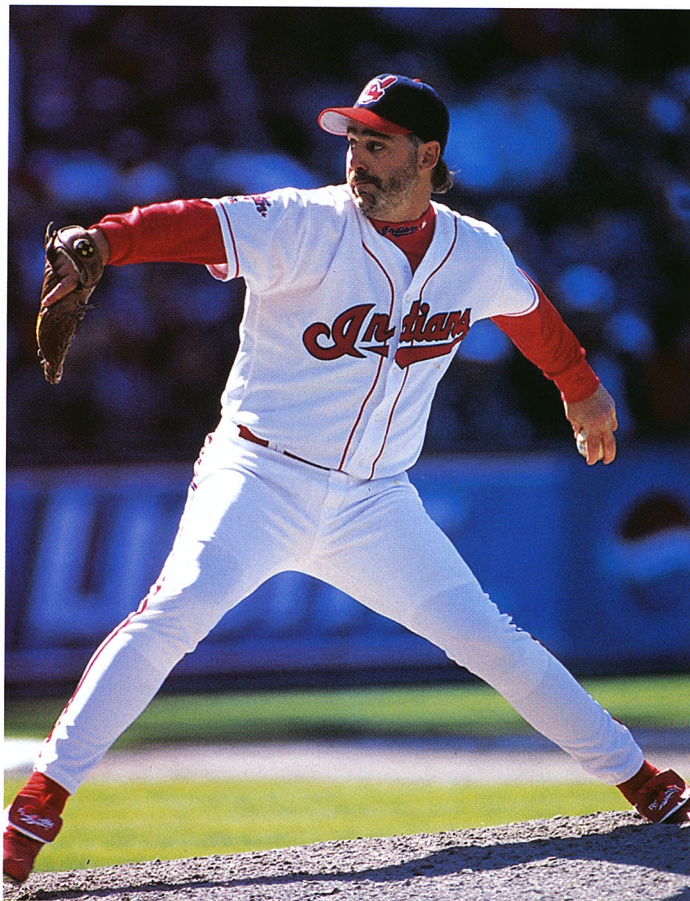


Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Anniversaries ● Bar & Bat Mitzvahs
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Year-Round



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

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March

April

May

June

October

November

July

August

September

December

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Jacobs Field Ground Rules

Baseball's most important pitch this season won't come from a mound. In an effort to combat drinking and driving, Major League Baseball, together with the Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management (TEAM) coalition, continues to make a comprehensive appeal to fans this year. The message: **PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!**

As part of the TEAM program, each Major League club reviews its alcohol policies and runs public service announcements asking fans to drink responsibly and warns them against the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Cleveland Indians want you safe, because we want you back. Please drink responsibly.

In an effort to make everyone's visit to the Ballpark as safe and enjoyable as possible, a list of guidelines has been developed.

The Indians ask that you follow these guidelines, or be subject to ejection from the Ballpark, and in some cases, subject to criminal prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.

To ensure that each game is a pleasant experience for each and every guest, the Indians have established the following **"Ground Rules:"**

"It is our intention to make our home a safe, comfortable, family-oriented facility so every trip to Jacobs Field is most enjoyable."

**— Dennis Lehman,
Indians Executive Vice
President of Business**

- Jacobs Field is a non-smoking facility with designated smoking areas. Non-smoking areas include: the entire seating bowl of the Ballpark (including the outdoor seating of Suites and Club Seats); KidsLand; and all public rest rooms. Smoking is permitted in the following areas: Back Yard; Patio area on the Main Concourse; all three concourse levels (Main, Mezzanine, and Upper Deck) on the East Ninth Street side of the Ballpark and Upper Deck pavilion area on the Carnegie side of the Ballpark (all of these locations are open-air areas with picnic tables, concession stands, and rest room facilities nearby); Bleacher Concourse on the Eagle Avenue side of the Ballpark. In addition, the Terrace Club and Club Lounge have both smoking and non-

or carry obscene, political, or commercial messages. Banners may be hung from the facing of the Upper Deck. Poles and sticks are strictly prohibited.

- Fans may bring small umbrellas into Jacobs Field as long as they do not interfere with other fans' enjoyment of the game. Large golf umbrellas are discouraged.
- Cameras and video recorders are permitted. However, any resale of the photography or video is strictly prohibited. Team name, logos, and players' likenesses are all copyrighted material.
- Persons observed breaking the law (eg. using illegal drugs, or drinking alcohol underage) will be subject to immediate ejection and/or criminal prosecution.



Photo: Gregory Drezdton

smoking areas. Jacobs Field has signage identifying designated smoking areas for your convenience.

- Cans, glass bottles, plastic beverage containers, thermos bottles, and squeeze bottles are not permitted into Jacobs Field.
- Due to security concerns, hard-sided coolers and containers are not permitted. Soft-sided containers and coolers are permitted.
- Food items and juice boxes are permitted inside the Ballpark, provided they are not inside a hard-sided cooler or container.
- Pets are not allowed inside the Ballpark. However, guide dogs for persons with sight disabilities are permitted.
- The resale (scalping) of Indians tickets is strictly prohibited and subject to prosecution by the Cleveland Police Department.
- Fans are permitted to bring and display banners, provided they do not interfere with the game, obstruct the view of fans,

- Persons using obscene or abusive language, or engaging in any other antisocial conduct offensive to those around them, will be asked by Indians personnel to cease this conduct. If the offensive conduct persists, those involved will be ejected from Jacobs Field.

- Persons entering the playing field, throwing or attempting to throw objects onto the field, will be subject to immediate ejection from Jacobs Field and/or criminal prosecution.

If you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or problems, please visit one of the Guest Service Centers located at Section 121 of the Main Concourse and in Section 519 of the Upper Concourse, or see one of our hosts throughout the Ballpark. The Indians thank you for your cooperation.

Relievers *continued from page 68*

doesn't have to be afraid to leave them in against right-handed hitters.

This should be a bullpen that gets better as the season goes along.

"Historically, with our bullpen in the first month or two we've had a settling in period, and as the season wore on, everybody started doing their jobs and became more consistent," says Hargrove.

"We have to make sure everyone goes in and gets established," says Jackson. "It takes everybody to do their part."

Hargrove has managed to successfully establish roles for his relievers over the years, which has been one of the keys to the bullpen's success.

"It's important for them to know their roles," says Regan. "I pitched in the bullpen and I know how important it was to know my role and when I was going into the game. We like to tell our pitchers what



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

their roles will be and stick with that. We like to have it so when the phone rings, guys almost start getting their gloves. When we get to the ninth inning, Mike Jackson knows he's going in the game."

Look for the phone in the Indians bullpen to be ringing a lot this season. And look for this group of relievers to be grabbing their gloves and getting in the game a lot. That's bound to be good news for the Indians and bad news for the rest of the league.

Above, left to right: a healthy Reed and Shuey — who finished strong in '98 — want the ball in '99.

Sliderville Answers:

Short Circuit

Sandy Alomar, Charles Nagy, Bartolo Colon, Jim Thome, Travis Fryman, Kenny Lofton, Jaret Wright, Robbie Alomar

The Name Angle

S P U M O N I
P A R D O N
I R K E D
D E L I
E R A
R N
S

Century Trivia

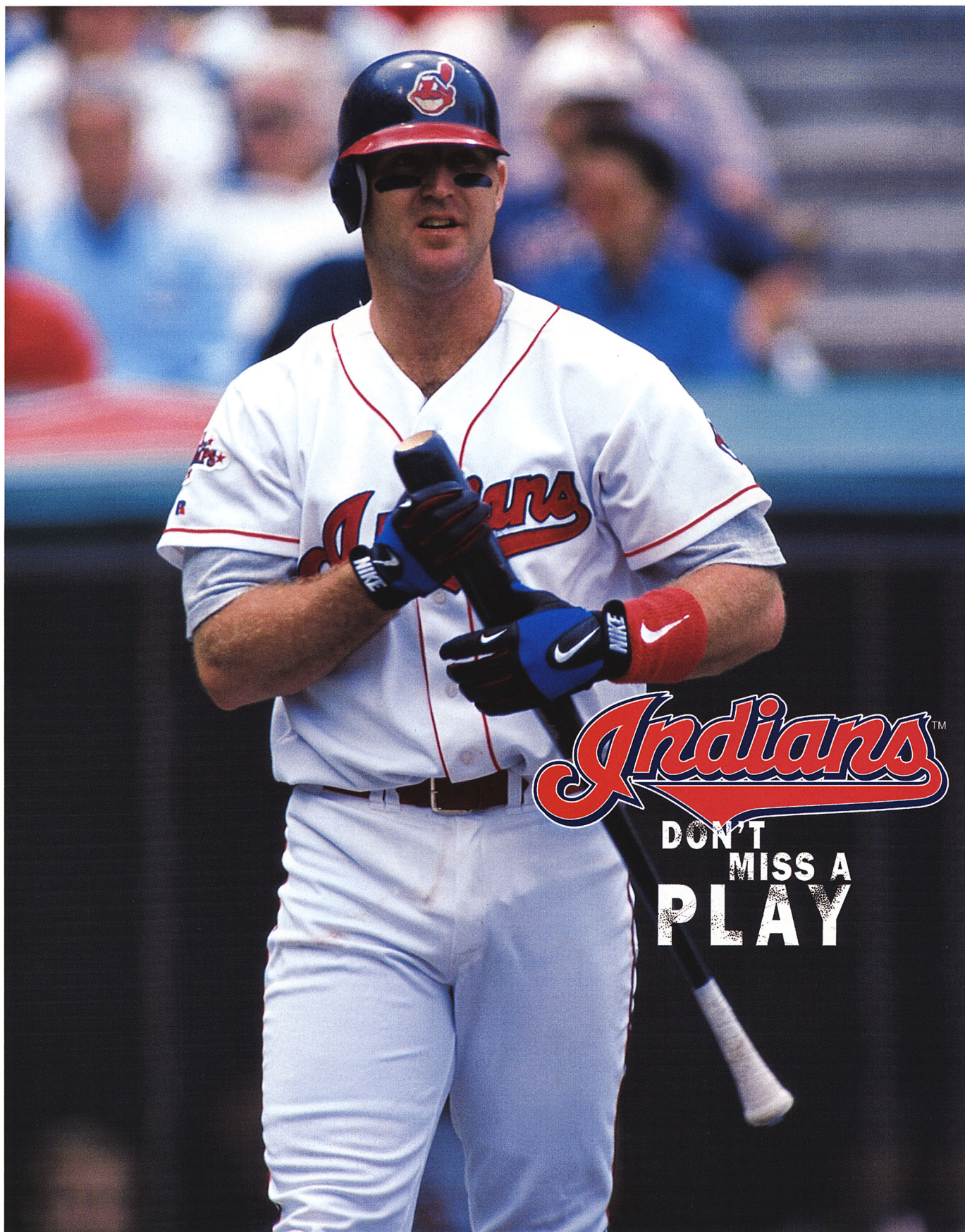
Our planetary neighbor of Pluto was undiscovered. The Home Run Champs of 1901 for both leagues had fewer than 17 homers (16 and 13). None of the items listed (TV, Cellophane, etc.) existed a Century ago. The President was McKinley, from 1896-1901. There were only 45 States in the Union (minus AK, AZ, HI, NM and OK). The U.S. population of 76 million was only 4 times NYC's current 19 million+. Carrie Nation began raiding saloons, while Queen Victoria ruled England. Life expectancy was 47, and first-class postage was just 2 cents.

Adding Up to a Century

A. 13, B. 9, C. 61, D. 51, E. 4, F. 10, G. 44, H. 2, I. 7 Those that add up evenly to 100 are A+B+C+F+I.

Building Blocks

You'll complete an aerial view of League Park, Cleveland's home field a Century ago.



Indians™

**DON'T
MISS A
PLAY**

Photo: Gregory Drezdon



1999 Cleveland Indians Position Players



**Jim
THOME**

25

Age: 28; born Aug. 27,
1970 in Peoria, IL

Position: Infielder

Bats: L Throws: R
Ht: 6'4" Wt: 225



**Omar
VIZQUEL**

13

Age: 31; born Apr. 24,
1967 in Caracas, Venezuela

Position: Infielder

Bats: S Throws: R
Ht: 5'9" Wt: 170



**Enrique
WILSON**

35

Age: 23; born July 27, 1975
in Santa Domingo, DR

Position: Infielder

Bats: S Throws: R
Ht: 5'11" Wt: 170

Disabled List



Photo: Gregory Drezdson



**John
SMILEY**

57

Age: 34; born Mar. 17,
1965 in Phoenixville, PA

Position: Pitcher

Bats: L Throws: L
Ht: 6'4" Wt: 210



**Mark
WHITEN**

29

Age: 32; born Nov. 25,
1966 in Pensacola, FL

Position: Outfielder

Bats: S Throws: R
Ht: 6'3" Wt: 235

**JACOBS FIELD ERA
CHAMPS™**



Bottom of the Ninth



Photo: Gregory Drezdson

Another Sold-Out Show!

Cleveland fans give a roaring boost to their favorite team.